



## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

### ***How long is the waitlist? What are the chances of my child becoming enrolled?***

The length of the waitlist depends upon the age of your child, but can be more than two years. Unfortunately we have no way of knowing exactly how long a wait may be because it depends upon a number of different factors. We have separate waitlists for each group, arranged by date of application.

Once enrollment for continuing children is finalized in the early spring, new spots are identified for the fall. New families are notified of openings in the spring for the following fall. Your child will remain on the waitlist until you ask to be removed. There is no additional fee for remaining on the waitlist.

### ***What about siblings?***

When your child has been at the center for a minimum of 6 months, your other child(ren) will then receive sibling priority on the waitlist.

### ***Do you provide meals?***

Parents provide each child's lunch. We heat and refrigerate foods in our infant room, but not in other rooms. We provide two snacks, morning and afternoon. Snacks are vegetarian and nutritious: fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads and crackers, cheese and yogurt are served. We maintain a tree nut free environment.

### ***How is napping handled?***

Infants are on their own napping schedules. When children are old enough, we start to transition them to a group nap schedule beginning around 1:00. Older children or those who do not sleep rest on their mats for a period, then get up and do quiet inside choices such as drawing or puzzles, or outdoor play.

### ***Do you allow cloth as well as paper diapers?***

At present we allow only disposable diapers due to the need for a healthy and sanitary environment. Parents supply diapers for their own child.

### ***How do children move through the program?***

Children generally move through the program as a group, although this can vary depending upon the needs of individuals and the configurations of the groups. Transitions and new enrollments generally occur in August every year. (Under some circumstances changes may occur during the year, but this is not typical.)

### ***What are your hours? Do you offer part-time or part-day schedules?***

Our hours are 7:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. We offer two-day (Tues-Thurs) and three-day (Mon-Wed-Fri) schedules in addition to full-time five-day schedules. We do not offer part-day schedules. Although you are free to drop off or pick up your child whenever you like, we encourage you arrive early enough and to leave your child at GeoKids long enough to fully participate in the program – ideally, from around 9:00-3:00. We ask parents to arrive by 5:50, as the building must be vacated at 6:00 pm.

***How do I work my co-op requirement?***

The amount of time that you are required to co-op each week depends upon the number of days that your child is enrolled. You will be given the opportunity to indicate your choices for days and times, and we attempt to match each family to the co-op times they desire. In order to maintain classroom stability your co-op times are set, but you may request a change if it becomes necessary. When you are unable to do your co-op time because of sickness or other reasons, you are given the opportunity to make up the hours on another day in most cases.

***What other obligations do I have as a parent?***

Other parent responsibilities include fundraising (as determined each year by the Board); Room Orientation meeting; Philosophy, Health and Safety meeting; occasional Room meetings and two General Membership meetings.

***What are the teacher's credentials and experience?***

The teachers have a variety of educational and practical experiences. Many have BA degrees; some have Masters degrees. We have relatively low turnover, and some of our teachers have been here over 10 years. All have the state-required Early Childhood Education course credits.

***How do you handle discipline?***

Discipline is generally handled through limit-setting and using natural consequences. At GeoKids we see discipline as part of a larger goal of positively guiding children toward self-direction in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. We do this by modeling desirable behavior; by listening when children communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings; by encouraging children to participate in decision-making and conflict resolution at the level they are capable; by explaining why a limit exists; and by encouraging children to do as much as they are capable of doing themselves. When there is an ongoing behavior issue, parents and staff meet together to devise an action plan. We do not use time-outs or punitive measures.

***Does my child need to be toilet trained? Do you provide training?***

Toilet training is not required before a child enters GeoKids. We work with children and their families on an individual basis as children show readiness.

***What types of extra activities do you offer? Is my child obligated to participate?***

Currently, children in our preschool program participate in a soccer program one day a week. There are separate fees for these programs, which are voluntary. We also bring in other programs such as music or ceramics when it is appropriate. Throughout the year, children frequently venture out on walks and occasional field trips.

***Do you require a deposit?***

When you are offered a space at GeoKids, a deposit of \$500 is required to hold the space. The deposit is non-refundable and is applied to your last month tuition (when you leave GeoKids).